

North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services
North Carolina Medicaid
Division of Health Benefits
FAMILY AND CHILDREN'S MEDICAID MANUAL

MA-3310

REASONABLE COMPATIBILITY

REVISED 02/10/2021– CHANGE NO. 03-21

I. REASONABLE COMPATIBILITY

Reasonable Compatibility refers to the standard used to **compare** the self-attested income/resource and income/resource as reported by an electronic data source. Reasonable Compatibility is determined based on the total countable amount of income/resources for the household. Reasonable compatibility cannot be used without self-attestation of income/resources. Self-attestation may be the applicant/beneficiary's statement or information they provide.

II. How to Determine Reasonable Compatibility

An applicant self-attestation of income/resources is acceptable if it is reasonably compatible with the information received from electronic data source. In order to be reasonably compatible:

- A. Both the self-attestation and electronic data source must be at or below the applicable income/resource standard; or**
- B. Both the self-attestation and electronic data source must be above the applicable income/resource standard; or**
- C. Either the self-attestation or the electronic data source is above and the other is below the applicable income/resource standard, and the difference between the 2 is within ten percent (10%) of each other.**
- D. NC FAST will automatically calculate the percentage difference when the applicant/beneficiary's attestation of income/resources is at or below the applicable income limit and the online verification source is above the applicable income limit.**
- E. NC FAST will not automatically calculate the percentage difference when the applicant/beneficiary's attestation of income is above the applicable income/resource limit and the electronic verification source is at or below the applicable income limit. The percentage difference between the two amounts will need to be calculated manually using the Reasonable Compatibility Calculator tool attached to policy.**

To calculate the 10% difference:

1. Subtract the smaller number from the larger number to get the difference between the two.
2. Divide the difference by the smallest number, and round to 2 decimal places.

3. Multiply this amount by 100 to get the percentage difference between the 2 amounts.

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Example: A parent comes into the local agency to apply for Medicaid for themselves. The household is the parent and 2 children. In this example, the applicable income limit for MAF-C for a household of 3 is \$667. The parent states they receive \$650 per month from their employer. OVS shows the monthly income for the applicant is \$670. The caseworker would subtract \$650 from \$670 to get a difference of \$20. Then divide \$20 by \$650 and round to two decimal points to get .03. Multiply this amount by 100 to get a percentage difference of 3%. Since the 2 amounts are within 10% of each other, the income is reasonably compatible.

F. Refer to the [Reasonable Compatibility Calculator](#) when manually determining reasonable compatibility.

Reasonable Compatibility Standard				
Self-Attestation of Household Income/Resources	Electronic Data Source	Reasonably Compatible	Case Action	Source of Income/Resource Used to Determine Eligibility
At or Below the Threshold for applicable household size	At or Below the Threshold for applicable household size	Yes If both amounts are at or below the applicable FPL or resource limit, it is always reasonably compatible regardless of the difference between the two amounts.	No further action necessary. The a/b is income/resource eligible.	Applicant's income/resource attestation.

Above Threshold for applicable household size	Above Threshold for applicable household size	Yes If both amounts are above the FPL or resource limit, it is always reasonably compatible regardless of the difference between the two amounts.	Applicant is income/resource ineligible; determine if the individual is medically needy and able to meet a deductible and allow rebuttal of resources if applicable.	Applicant's income/resource attestation.
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Reasonable Compatibility Standard				
Attested Household Income/Resources	Electronic Data Source	Reasonably Compatible	Case Action	Source of Income/Resource Used to Determine Eligibility
At or Below Threshold for applicable household size	Above Threshold for applicable household size	Yes, if the attested amount is within 10% of electronic source amount.	No further action necessary. The applicant is income/resource eligible.	Applicant's income/resource attestation.
		No, if the attested amount is not within 10% of electronic source amount.	Ask for reasonable explanation, or verification if needed.	If reasonable explanation is provided, then use the applicant's income/resource attestation. If additional verification needs to be requested, then use the amount return on the additional verification.

Above Threshold for applicable household size	At or Below the threshold for applicable household size	Yes, if the attested amount is within 10% of electronic source amount.	No further action necessary. The applicant/beneficiary is income/resource eligible.	The electronic source amount.
		No, if the attested amount is not within 10% of electronic source amount	Ask for reasonable explanation, or verification if needed.	<p>If reasonable explanation is provided, then use the electronic source data.</p> <p>If additional verification needs to be requested, then use the amount return on the additional verification.</p>